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BOOKS OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

Weltgeschichte in gemeinverständlicher Darstellung. In Verbindung mit . . . herausgegeben von LUDO MORITZ HARTMANN. Band IV. *Das Mittelalter bis zum Ausgange der Kreuzzüge.* Von S. HELLMANN. (Gotha: F. A. Perthes A.-G. 1920. Pp. iii, 350. M. 24.)

BRIEF notice has already appeared in the *Review*¹ of Professor Hartmann's *Weltgeschichte*, composed by him and other German scholars, of which the fourth volume is now before us. Herr Hellmann's book begins with the foundations of the Frankish kingdom and ends with the death of Frederick II. The first section, of four chapters, carries Frankish history through the dissolution of Charlemagne's empire. There follows a section of five chapters concerned with the ascendancy of Germany and with the awakening of the Anglo-Saxons, of the Scandinavians, and of the Slavs to political life. The only unsatisfactory chapter in this section is the final one, on Islam and Byzantium previous to the Crusades, brief perhaps because these subjects have been dealt with in the preceding volume of the series. The last and most extended section, entitled "Das Zeitalter der Hierarchie", consists of nine chapters—on the social and economic aspects of the period, the Church and the papacy through the investiture struggle, the first Crusades, the new Capetian and Norman-Angevin monarchies, Frederick I. and Henry VI., the age of Innocent III. and Philip II., the advance of western Christian civilization against Moslem Spain and against the Byzantine world in the Fourth Crusade, Scandinavia and the folk on the eastern German border, and Frederick II. There is a general bibliography of sources and literature as well as a brief additional list preceding each chapter, and a chronological table of important events covering seventeen pages. There is no index.

The aim of the book, consistent with that of the series, as Professor Guiland has described it, is to disclose the great historic currents of world development. In this respect Hellmann's volume is in the main excellent. The directions of these currents are as admirably outlined in the general introduction, for the period as a whole, as in the shorter introductions which precede each of the three sections of the work. Clearly and definitely drawn, these pages, with the epilogue, constitute excellent interpretative historical passages. The inner meaning of the early Middle Ages is touched with a sure hand. Not only has the author succeeded here, but several of the chapters, amply supplied with detail as they are and must be, are written with a broad sweep; the opening chapter is a model of successful weaving of intricate pattern.

There are some obvious defects in the work. Panoramic *Weltge-*

¹ In Professor Antoine Guiland's article on "German Historical Publications, 1914-1920", *Am. Hist. Rev.*, XXV. 641-642.

schichte naturally face the danger of superficiality. The writer has not entirely overcome this difficulty. The pages on economic developments are undoubtedly superficial, perhaps necessarily so. As for bibliography, the book makes no pretence to exhaustive lists (for example, the only source cited at the head of the chapter on the foundation of the Frankish kingdom is Gregory of Tours), but even when they are viewed merely as selected bibliographies there are questionable omissions. As an illustration, no work of this kind, containing many pages on English institutions, should fail to mention to readers whom it aims to direct to more intensive treatments the work of Stubbs, especially when the book is presumably meant for use outside of England. It is on the institutional side that the book is weakest: the bifurcated root of the immunity is not recognized (p. 26), the ecclesiastical influence in the development of the benefice is ignored (p. 33), although both institutions are supposedly fully discussed; the Anglo-Saxon ealdormen and Canute's earls are confused (p. 130); the feudal régime in the Crusaders' states in Syria is described from the Assizes of Jerusalem as of the early twelfth century (p. 217) although Dodu's *Histoire des Institutions Monarchiques* is listed in the bibliography of the chapter.

The defects last mentioned may be due in part to hasty writing and to a desire for quick publication without careful editing, since there are other evidences of this in very careless proof-reading. Unfortunately too, the press-work is in sad contrast to what we were wont to expect from German workmen. The war however has not biased the writer's attitude toward the commanding rôle of French civilization in the history of Europe in the Middle Ages.

E. H. B.

Social Scandinavia in the Viking Age. By MARY WILHELMINE WILLIAMS, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History in Goucher College. (New York: Macmillan Company. 1920. Pp. xiv, 451. \$6.00.)

THE viking incursions into western and southwestern Europe began toward the close of the eighth century and continued for a period of nearly two hundred years. English writers have given us much information of a general sort about these invasions; but their accounts have little to offer concerning the social aspects of the movement—the ideas, the customs, the religious beliefs, and the political institutions which the vikings brought with them into the lands that they seized and occupied. Scandinavian scholars have, however, not allowed these fields to lie fallow. Alexander Bugge has described the social life and the economic activities of the viking period. Hjalmar Falk has discussed the methods of navigation and the art of warfare. Finnur Jónsson and Axel Olrik have studied the intellectual activities and the literary sources of the time. Oscar Montelius has described the material